

I. Post War Europe and Asia

A. In August of 1945 after the bomb had been dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima

1. August 8: Soviets declared war on Japan and started moving through China defeating the remaining Japanese army in their way continuing through Korea
2. August 9: Second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki resulting in the surrender of Japan on August 15
3. September 2: official surrender papers signed on board the USS Missouri docked in Tokyo Bay

B. Meanwhile in Europe

1. A War Crimes tribunal has been established with judges from Great Britain, France, Russia, and America
2. Designed to try German war criminals for crimes and atrocities committed during the war
 - A. instigation of war
 - B. Extermination of ethnic groups
 - C. murder and mistreatment of POW's
 - D. Deportation of slave laborers to German occupied countries
3. Nuremberg Trials began November 20, 1945
4. Herman Goering was the highest ranked German officer captured and tried
 - A. commander in chief of the Luftwaffe (German Air Force)
 - B. Next in line as Hitler's successor
 - C. Ordered the "total solution" to have Jewish people killed
 - D. sentenced to hang but committed suicide by cyanide snuck to him the day before his execution
5. Even today, there are still those seeking any remaining Nazi's
 - A. Simon Wiesenthal Center
 - B. John Demanjuk

C. Germany's capital, Berlin, was divided into four pieces

1. France, Great Britain, and U.S. agreed to merge their portions and became known as the Federal Republic of Germany or West Germany
2. The Soviet controlled portion was called the German Democratic Republic or East Germany
3. Soviets wanted to keep their portion of Germany under communist control.
4. In 1961, they built a physical wall : "The Berlin Wall"
5. in 1990, as communist nations across Eastern Europe overthrew the governments and reorganized into democratic governments, the wall was torn down

D. Marshall Plan

1. Europe is again in ruins
2. many Americans were afraid that we would fall back into a depression
3. People were also afraid that with so many nations and people on the verge of starvation that communism would easily take over
4. Secretary of State George Marshall came up with **The European Recovery Plan** (aka the Marshall Plan)
 - a. Program of financial assistance to help rebuild Europe
 - b. meeting to which the Soviets were invited to discuss how much aid they would need
 1. The Soviets being communist withdrew when they realized that they would need to act in non-communist ways in order to get the money
 2. Soviets decided they needed to "help" some of the nations in Eastern Europe by creating communist governments thus helping these nations get worse
 - c. United States helped many in western Europe with \$13 billion in aid being given to Great Britain, Italy, France, and West Germany thus helping these nations rebuild

E. Truman Doctrine

1. Because so many nations were being “helped” by the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Truman thought that we needed to help Greece and Turkey avoid falling into the Soviet hands and then communism
2. With the world seemingly divided into 2 (U.S. superpower vs. the Soviet superpower) the U.S. Needs to be prepared to help free people threatened by Totalitarian regimes

F. What was the Cold War and what caused it?

1. Cold War: term first used to describe the period of tension and intense competition which occasionally flared up into actual military conflict
2. Initial causes
 - a. Manhattan Project
 - b. Marshall Plan
 - c. Truman Doctrine
 - d. Creation of East and West Germany
 - e. Stalin’s treachery against Eastern Europe and the Russian people

G. United Nations

1. First meeting was April 25, 1945
2. Delegates from 50 nations got together to form a new alliance
3. Divided into 3 sections
 - a. General Assembly: delegates from all the member nations gather annually to express differing viewpoints on various issues
 - b. Security council
 1. Five permanent members with veto power
 - a. U.S.
 - b. China
 - c. Great Britain
 - d. Russia
 - e. France

2. ten rotating members each serving a 2 year term

c. Secretariat

3. Bureaucracy and administrative duties

H. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

1. Mutual defense attack pact to defend each other should the Soviets attack the United States or Western Europe
2. Today, there are 28 independent member nations in NATO. Russia is not one of them yet!

I. China embraces Communism

1. Chinese nationalists and Chinese Communists put their trouble aside to fight Japan during the war.
2. Once the war was over they went back to fighting each other
3. By 1949 the Chinese Communists under the leadership of Mao Zedong had taken over China and China officially became Communists
4. Zedong changed the name from the Republic of China to the People's Republic of China to reflect the ideas behind communism/socialism

J. Israel

1. So many Jewish people lost their lives or homes and livelihood that they had no place to return
2. There was a movement to re-establish all the misplaced men and women in a new nation...Israel
3. Many people of Jewish descent began to return to the region then known as Palestine
4. By 1948, enough Jews had returned that a new nation could be established
5. Harry Truman put much support behind this new nation in part because there was/is a large Jewish population in America who could vote for or against him possibly affecting elections